

Assembly Bill No. 2430

CHAPTER 378

An act to add Section 9054 to the Elections Code, relating to ballot measures.

[Approved by Governor September 21, 2006. Filed with
Secretary of State September 21, 2006.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2430, Umberg. Ballot materials: translations.

Existing federal law, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, requires every state or political subdivision meeting certain criteria to provide bilingual voting materials to citizens of language minorities to ensure their full participation in the electoral process.

The California Constitution and existing state law require the Legislature to prohibit improper practices that affect elections, including a citizen's right to vote.

This bill would require the Secretary of State to provide a translation of the ballot title and the condensed statement of the ballot title in a language other than English to the local elections official whenever a city, county, or city and county is required to provide a translation of ballot materials in a language other than English by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 for each state measure submitted to the voters in a statewide election not later than 68 days prior to that election.

The bill would also require the local elections official to use that translation, as specified, and would prohibit him or her from selecting or contracting with another person to provide translations of the same text.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 9054 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

9054. (a) Whenever a city, county, or city and county is required by Section 203 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1973aa-1a) or Section 4(f)(4) (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1973b(f)(4)) of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 to provide a translation of ballot materials in a language other than English, the Secretary of State shall provide a translation of the ballot title prepared pursuant to Section 9050 and of the condensed statement of the ballot title prepared pursuant to Section 13247 in that language to the city, county, or city and county for each state measure submitted to the voters in a statewide election not later than 68 days prior to that election.

(b) When preparing a translation in a language other than English pursuant to subdivision (a), the Secretary of State shall consult with an

advisory body consisting of language experts and nonpartisan organizations that advocate on behalf of, or provide services to, individuals that speak that language.

(c) All translations prepared pursuant to this section shall be made available for public examination in the same time and manner as the ballot pamphlet is made available for public examination in accordance with Section 88006 of the Government Code and Section 9092 of this code.

(d) The local elections official shall use that translation of the condensed statement of the ballot title on the sample ballot and the official ballot and may not select or contract with another person to provide translations of the same text.